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File No. IN01192-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Lim-Wilby et al.

Serial No.: 09/909,164

Filed: July 19, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Donna C. Wortman

For: NOVEL PEPTIDES AS NS-3-SERINE PROTEASE INHIBITORS OF HEPATITIS C

VIRUS

PRELIMINARY AMENDEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Notice to Comply mailed January 23, 2003 in connection with the above-referenced application. Also enclosed is a Petition, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), for a one month extension of time, a Marked-Up Amendment showing all changes to the application along with a Sequence Listing (paper copy and diskette (CRF)).

AMENDMENT

In the claims: Please amend claims 17 and 18 as follows

17 (Amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

AcEEVVPnV-(CO)-GMSYS-Am (SEQ ID NO: 5)

AcEEVVPnV-CO-GMdSYS-Am (SEQ ID NO: 6)

AcEEVVPnV-CO-GMdHYS-Am (SEQ ID NO: 7)

AcEEVVPnV-CO-GMdDYS-Am (SEQ ID NO: 8)